



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Walla Walla District  
Public Affairs Office

# News Release

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## Corps announces changes to seasonal recreational craft lockage schedule; safety a prime concern

**Walla Walla, Wash.,** -- The Walla Walla District, U. S. Corps of Engineers is implementing temporary changes to the seasonal lockage schedule for recreational craft traveling the Snake and Columbia Rivers due to severe conditions of continuing dry weather and low water reserves. The schedule begins May 15 and will continue through Sept. 15.

To conserve water the Corps will temporarily suspend two scheduled lockages upstream and downstream from the usual seasonal schedule. This will provide more water for power used in the Pacific Northwest.

The schedule includes three lockages a day spaced five hours apart through McNary Dam on the Columbia River; Ice Harbor Dam; Lower Monumental Dam; Little Goose Dam and Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River. The same schedule is in effect on the lower Columbia dams -- at Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day.

Upstream lockages will be at 9 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m. Downstream lockages will be at 9:30 a.m., 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Commercial traffic will be locked through upon demand. Whenever possible, and at the discretion of the lockmaster, recreational vessels may be locked through with commercial craft if safety and other conditions permit. Groups and flotillas may be granted special lockages outside regular schedules, provided advance arrangements have been made with the appropriate operations manager.

A safe lockage is of foremost concern to the Corps. The following guidelines are in place year round for the continued safe lockage of recreational craft at all Walla Walla District projects, including McNary, Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite locks and dams.

- Lockage shall be provided to "seaworthy" craft -- not to swimmers, inner-tubers, wind-surfers etc.
- Non-motorized recreational craft (e.g. row boats, canoes, kayaks) will not be allowed to lock through without assistance. Motor power is critical to a safe lockage and to expedite the locking process. The non-motorized craft may be locked if moored to an approved vessel and its passengers are on board the approved vessel.

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- Personal Water Craft (e.g. Jet Ski's) are allowed to lock as long as no parts of the operator's (and on-board passengers) body are in the water during normal operation. Personal Water Craft not meeting the appropriate criteria may be allowed to lock if moored to an approved vessel and its passengers are on board the approved vessel.
- The lockmaster has the authority to make the final decision on the suitability of a craft for lockage.

To request a special lockage at McNary, Ice Harbor or Lower Monumental, call Randall Ryan at (509) 547-7781. To request a special lockage at Little Goose or Lower Granite, call Charles Krahenbuhl at (509) 751-0250. For more information on lockages at Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day, contact the Portland District Public Affairs Office at (503) 808-4510.

For more information, call Ann Glassley in the Walla Walla District's Operations Division at (509) 527-7115, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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